

Applic. No. 10/735,232
Amdt. dated August 28, 2006
Reply to Office action of July 28, 2006

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Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-8 remain in the application. Claims 4-6 and 9 are being cancelled herewith. Claim 2 was previously cancelled.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the Examiner indicated that since claim 1 is not considered to be generic claims 4-7 have not been rejoined. As noted above, claims 4-6 have been cancelled. However, claim 7 has not been cancelled and should be rejoined for the following reasons. Claim 7 includes the severable or decouplable drive and is directed to the configuration shown in Fig. 8 (see page 8, line 15 -17 of the specification). This configuration includes the endless suction belt (page 23, line 25 to page 24, line 3 of the specification). Allowable claim 1 also includes the endless suction belt and is considered to be generic to claim 7. Therefore, it is kindly requested that claim 7 be rejoined.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, claim 9 has been rejected as being fully anticipated by Strecker (U.S. Patent No. 2,670,955) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

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As noted above, claim 9 is cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 9 is moot.

It is appreciatively noted from item 4 on page 3 of the Office action that claims 1, 3, and 8 are allowed.

Since only allowable claims remain, the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited herewith.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

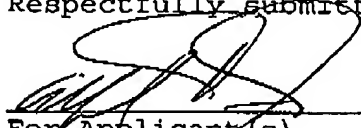
If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
Greenberg Sterner LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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AKD:cgm

August 28, 2006

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